



Young fans whoop it up at basketball game between teachers and town employees. (Derr photo)

Pratt, Leary Deny Conflict Charges

Chairman of the Planning Board Glenn Pratt and former board member Roberta Leary have denied allegations that they may have been in conflict of interest while serving the board.

Pratt said that his handling of a local real estate development did not come under Planning Board jurisdiction and that he had not taken part in any Planning Board consideration of it.

"The charges are completely false and represent a basic misunderstanding of the Planning Board's role in such matters," Pratt said in a statement released this week.

"The development in question so thoroughly and clearly met existing zoning by-law requirements that the Planning Board had no jurisdiction

and was required by law so to state. To be certain, however, that there could be absolutely no question of improper action. I did not take any part whatsoever in the consideration of this routine matter."

Mrs. Leary, who was hired by the Planning Board as a consultant to draw up business zoning schemes for potential development of Route 3A, also responded to the allegation of conflict of interest made against her.

"My attorney advises me that my consulting, rather than prohibited, is clearly permitted by law. What the law doesn't allow is my appearing before the board on behalf of an applicant for subdivision, site plan or other board approval."

Conflict Of Interest

(cont. from page 1)

sale of the lot from the Pinkersons to Sweeney, to ask him the meaning of the court order. Price returned Litchfield's call within 15 minutes, the letter states, and informed him that Bradley would have the complaint dropped if he issued the building permit.

The next morning, Litchfield continued, Attorney Hurley called Litchfield, and told him the charges were being dropped. Hurley explained that he had been under the impression that the application for the building permit had been filed in February rather than March, and that Littlefield had been deliberately holding up its issuance.

Pearson not only questioned the actions of Bradley as an agent — while a Planning Board member — for persons purchasing and developing tracts of land in Cohasset, but also the actions of Glenn Pratt, while a member and Chairman of the board, and of Roberta Leary, as a former member.

Pearson noted that Roberta Leary was paid \$900 for consulting services to the board for plans outlining the development capabilities of Route 3A. She was hired after resigning from the board — before two years had elapsed, a period of time which the law requires that former town employees must wait before resuming business with the town.

Pearson alleged that Pratt, a candidate for Selectman, has been purchasing and is currently developing land known as the Bigelow Estate, as a business.

A question as to the legality of the hearing held by the Planning Board on March 15, was raised by the businessman, as well. Pearson said that the Board failed to notify the Town of Scituate by mail of the hearing regarding proposed changes in the Highway Business area of Route 3A. Pearson also mentioned that the towns of Hingham and Hull may not have been notified.

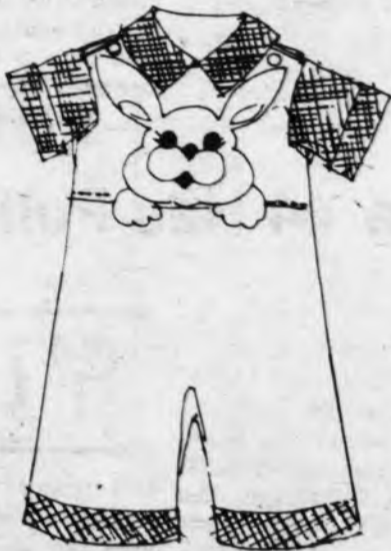
Pearson had voiced objec-

tions to the proposed bylaw changes which would affect his business on Route 3A at the March 15 meeting. He also claimed that the mimeographed notice apprising him of the

meeting had been legible.

(A legal notice appeared in the Patriot Ledger Thursday, March 22 announcing another hearing on proposed bylaw changes Friday, April 6.)

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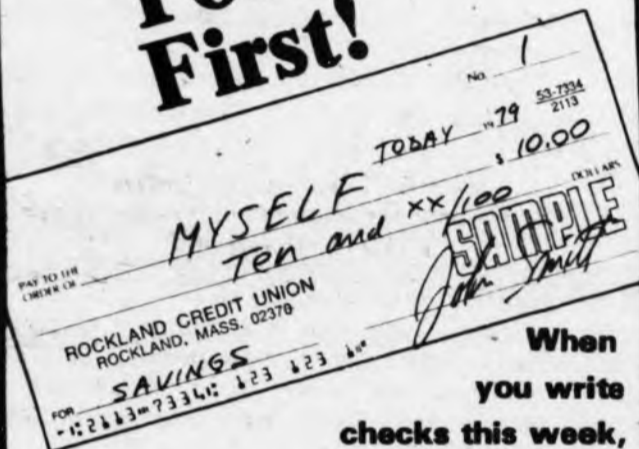
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